

Also a resolution that the amendment should not take effect on the present members of the Institution until after January 1, 1854.

Dr. McEwen announced the decease of John Price Wetherill, late Vice-President of the Academy, and moved the appointment of a Committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the Academy of the loss which it has sustained.

The Committee, consisting of Dr. McEwen, Dr. Hays and Mr. Vaux, after having retired for a short time, reported the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Academy profoundly regrets the loss which it has sustained by the death of its late Vice President, JOHN PRICE WETHERILL, who for thirty years has been an active and useful member, contributing liberally to its Library and Cabinet, and, where occasion required, to its funds; and who, by his zealous and untiring efforts for the promotion of the objects of the Academy, has largely contributed to its present prosperous condition.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Academy, individually, have lost a warm friend; one whose advice and sympathy were always ready in those peculiar circumstances requiring a sound, discriminating judgment.

*Resolved*, That in testimony of respect for his memory, the members of the Academy will attend his funeral in a body, and that the President's chair be dressed in mourning for three months.

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ELECTION.

John C. Bullitt, Esq., of Philadelphia, was elected a *Member*.

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August 2d.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The following letter from Mr. Isaac Lea, dated Langen Schwalback, Duchy of Nassau, June 21, 1853, addressed to Dr. Leidy, was read :

“My kind friend, Professor Dunker, of Cassel, most generously gave me his only specimen of a rare species of the family *Naiades* of Lamarck, under the name of *Castalia sulcata*, Krauss. On examining it, I found that while it had some of the general characters of this genus, (*Prisidon*, Schum., = *Castalia*, Lam.) it had not that of the striate teeth. It therefore properly belongs to the *Uniones*, and must be placed in the triangular group of that genus. In this translation it loses its specific name, as that has long since been applied by me to a species of *Unio* from the Ohio river. I therefore propose to name it after the able naturalist, Prof. Krauss, of Stuttgart, who has been the first to describe it, and it will follow in my systematic arrangement after *Unio triangularis*, Barnes, under the name of *Unio Kraussii* Lea, with the synonym of *Castalia sulcata*, Krauss.

In Prof. Dunker's interesting collection, I observed a nearly perfect valve of a *Naiad*, from Liberia, under the name of *Anodontia Herculea*, Middendorf. This, I have no doubt, is the *Dipsas plicatus*, Leach. The dimensions of this specimen are greater than any I have ever seen of the family of *Naiades*. Its breadth is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and its length  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches, which is greater than the specimen in the collection of our Academy.

I also observed in Prof. Dunker's collection his *Unio macropterus*,\* which is the same as my *Unio superbus*, and therefore is a synonym to the latter. His

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\* Its habitat is found to be Danu-Luar River, Island of Sumatra.

*Unio Cumingii* is the same with my *Unio cucumoides*—is therefore a synonym to the latter. Prof. Dunker had not had access to my descriptions of the above species when he described in the *Zeitschrift für Malakozologie*, 1846 and 1852.”

Mr. Girard read two papers, entitled severally “Observations upon the American species of the genus *Esox*,” and “Note upon a nest constructed by Catfishes;” both of which were referred to the following Committee: Major Le Conte, Dr. Zantzinger and Dr. Ruschenberger.

Dr. Leidy offered the following observations:

In the Proceedings of the Academy for 1851, page 326, some remains of extinct Cetacea are indicated as having been obtained from the green sand of New Jersey. At the request of Sir Charles Lyell, I have directed more particular attention to the specimens with a view to determining whether they are true cretaceous fossils.

The species named *Priscodelphinus Harlani* was proposed upon a single vertebra which had been previously described by Dr. Harlan, as having belonged to the saurian genus *Plesiosaurus*. In regard to the cetacean character of the bone there is no doubt. The specimen was obtained from the marl of Mullica Hill, which certainly belongs to the green sand formation of the cretaceous series. But as we know that remains of recent animals occasionally find their way into the marl,\* the vertebra under consideration may also be accidental in its position. In texture the specimen has more the appearance of most of the Miocene Cetacean fossils, than it has the bones of the saurians belonging to the marl, although there is no miocene formation at Mullica Hill.

The species *Priscodelphinus grandævus* was proposed on two vertebræ, which were found by Dr. J. Thomas, in the Shiloh marl pits near Jericho, Cumberland Co., and this Mr. T. A. Conrad, who recently visited the locality, informs me is a miocene formation.

Mr. Conrad has presented me with an outline drawing (of which the accompanying wood engraving is a copy,) of a tooth, discovered by Mr. Samuel A. Wetherill in the green sand, of the cretaceous series, near Burlington, New Jersey. The specimen was given to Mr. Conrad, who made the drawing indicated, and afterwards loaned it to an acquaintance, from whom he has not been able to obtain it again. The figure represents a double-fanged tooth, with a crown divided into five prominent lobes. It is, without doubt, the tooth of a mammal, and resembles very much one of the posterior molars of *Stenorhynchus serridens*, Owen, an animal of the seal tribe. It may have belonged to a cetacean allied to *Basilosaurus*, but until further evidence is obtained, I propose to call the species indicated by the tooth *Stenorhynchus vetus*.



Prof. Francis S. Holmes, of Charleston, S. C., has sent for my inspection a collection of mammalian fossils, among which are the remains of several cetaceans as follows:

1. A nearly entire tooth, with fragments of five others, from the sands of Ashley River, S. C. These teeth may be saurian in character, but I suspect them to belong to a cetacean genus of the family Delphinidæ. The nearly entire specimen resembles in general form the teeth of the dolphins. It is about three inches long, and is curved; and it has a conical crown capped with enamel, which forms a salient ridge on two sides. The fang is long and conoidal; and just beyond the crown is gibbous. On several of the specimens the enamel is smooth, but on the others is longitudinally corrugated. For the animal to which these teeth belonged the name of *Colophonodon Holmesii* is proposed.

2. Twelve imperfect teeth, averaging an inch in length, from the same locality as the former, belonging to the genus *Phocodon?* Agassiz.

\* See Proceedings, vol. v, 333.

3. Portions of three teeth, and fragments of two tympanic bones of a species of spermaceti whale, from the sands of Ashley River. The best preserved portion of a tooth in its perfect condition appears to have been about five inches in length, and at its middle it measures four and three-quarter inches in circumference. For the species the name *Physeter antiquus* is proposed.

4. Quite lately I received from Prof. Holmes fragments of both sides of a lower jaw, two teeth, and a portion of a rib of a cetacean, from the miocene formation of Virginia. The species belonged to the family Delphinidæ, and probably appertains to a new genus. The more perfect of the two teeth appears to have been about five inches in length, and it is curved conical. The fang is quadrate and hollowed, and the surface of the tooth, nearly to the end of the crown, which appears not to have been covered with enamel, is annularly and longitudinally corrugated. The greatest circumference of this tooth is three inches in length, and nearly straight. For the animal I propose the name of *Orycterocetus quadratidens*.

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August 9th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Samuel V. Merrick, Esq., acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Member.

Also a letter from James M. Hamilton, Esq., dated New York, Aug. 6, 1853, addressed to Mr. R. E. Peterson, in relation to the Hamilton Lands. Referred to the Committee on the subject.

Mr. Charles Girard made a communication, on behalf of Prof. Baird and himself, upon a species of frog, and another of toad, which they had recently described from specimens in the Herpetological Collections of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. Both of the species were obtained in Oregon, the frog on Puget Sound, and the toad on Columbia River. He characterised them as follows:

*RANA PRETIOSA*, B. and G.—Ground color above reddish-brown, blotched with black. A deep brown vitta extending from the eye to the shoulder in passing over the tympanum, and below which is a yellowish one passing over the angle of the mouth. Beneath dull greenish-yellow. Vomerine teeth disposed in two roundish groups, between the inner nostrils. Tympanum very distinct, rather small. Feet underneath granulated. Fingers slender and tapering. Toes webbed to their tip. A small and flattened horny processus at the base of the inner toe, and a minute conical metatarsal tubercle situated between the fourth and fifth toes. Skin finely granular on the anterior portion of the back, more coarsely posteriorly, and also on the sides of the abdomen. Two dorsal series of pores, one on each side of the back, but not very conspicuous.

*Obs.*—Is distinguished from *R. aurora* in having proportionally much shorter legs, especially the hind ones; also by the palmaria of the toes, the membrane of which extends to their very tip, whilst in *R. aurora* the tip of the toes extends beyond their membrane. The granulation of the body and inferior surface of the feet is another feature by which both species differ.

*BUFO COLUMBIENSIS*, B. and G.—Ground color light greenish, with large and irregular black blotches and reddish dots: a dorsal white vitta; an oblique black patch under the eye. Beneath of a soiled yellow, maculated. First finger equal to the second in length. Upper surface of head without elevated ridges and grooves; skin in this region rather thin, and firmly adhering to the skull. Parotids oblong, quite small. Tympanum small, very distinct. Toes webbed to nearly their tip. Two large metatarsal tubercles. A membranous ridge along the inner edge of the tarsus. Skin glandulous.

*Obs.*—May be distinguished from *B. boreas* by the relative size of the first